

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 H-01
SSO-00 CCO-00 DODE-00 INR-07 INRE-00 NSCE-00
NSC-05 /056 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH/MPH
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE
PM:RERICSON
P:GMOOSE
NEA:NVELIOTES
S/P:HWARD
S/S-O:JTHYDEN
H:BATWOOD

-----097699 050048Z /64

O 050009Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183295 TOSEC 080109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD; CHADIAN REQUEST TO
JORDAN

REF: STATE 180597 TOSEC 80036 (NOTAL)

1. CHAD'S FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE LEFT NDJAMENA FOR
JIDDA, AMMAN AND PERHAPS TEHRAN ON AUGUST 1. WHILE WE DO
NOT YET KNOW WHAT CHAD HAS REQUESTED FROM THE SAG, IT IS
LIKELY THAT CHAD HAS ASKED FOR MONEY WITH WHICH TO BUY
EQUIPMENT, AND FOR MATERIEL. KAMOUGUE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
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ASK JORDAN FOR TRANSFERS OF EQUIPMENT OF US AND OTHER
ORIGIN. YOUR VISIT TO AMMAN PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPOR-
TUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE CHADIAN REQUEST AND SUGGEST THE
JORDANIANS ACT FAVORABLY ON IT.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTORS:

A) CHADIAN VICE PRESIDENT DJIME MET WITH YOU ON JULY 14 AND WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE ON JULY 15 TO MAKE AN URGENT PERSONAL APPEAL FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. DJIME TOLD YOU THAT THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD LOST EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE TIBESTI MOUNTAIN MASSIF IN NORTHWESTERN CHAD TO LIBYAN-BACKED TOUBOU REBELS LED BY GOUKOUNI, A SON OF A

TRADITIONAL POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADER OF THE TRIBE. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE ASSURED DJIME THAT WE WILL HELP IN RESTORING CHAD'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

B) PRESIDENT SADAT IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT LIBYAN ACTIVITIES IN CHAD WHICH HE BELIEVES ARE DESIGNED TO DESTABILIZE THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA AND ULTIMATELY TO UNDERMINE THE STABILITY OF THE SUDANESE AND EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTS. HE HAS URGED US TO ASSIST CHAD, AND HAS PROVIDED SMALL ARMS AND OTHER MATERIEL FROM EGYPTIAN INVENTORIES.

C) FOR THE REASONS SUMMARIZED IN REFTEL, OUR ABILITY TO MEET THE CHADIAN REQUEST IS LIMITED TO HELPING THEM BUY EQUIPMENT FROM US COMMERCIAL SOURCES - FOR WHICH THEY NEED A SOURCE OF FUNDS - AND FACILITATING THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS. IF CHAD IS MADE FMS ELIGIBLE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT SALES ON CREDIT, BUT AGAIN CHAD WOULD NEED A WAY TO FINANCE THE LOAN.
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D) CHADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE LEFT NDJAMENA ON AUGUST 1 FOR JIDDA AND AMMAN. HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AND MAY URGE THE JORDANIANS TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING EQUIPMENT IN JORDANIAN INVENTORIES TO CHAD.

E. OUR EMBASSY IN AMMAN REPORTS THAT JORDAN MIGHT BE WILLING TO JOIN A JOINT EFFORT WITH EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, THE SUDAN, AND POSSIBLY MOROCCO IN AN UNPUBLICIZED PROGRAM OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD PARTICULARLY IF TRANSFERRED MATERIEL WOULD BE REPLACED ALL OR IN PART BY THE US. JORDAN HAS A GREAT DEAL OF US ORIGIN EQUIPMENT INCLUDING CREW SERVED WEAPONS, SMALL ARMS, UNIFORMS AND RATIONS. IT ALSO HAS SOME BRITISH FIELD GUNS AND ARMORED CARS, AND SOME WORN BUT SERVICEABLE FORD TRUCKS.

3. POINTS TO BE MADE:

A) NOTE OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN CHAD WHERE LIBYAN BACKED REBELS HAVE SECURED EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE MOUNTAINS IN THE NORTHWEST.

B) NOTE THAT OUR CONCERN IS SHARED BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND THAT YOU PLAN TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH THE SAG ON YOUR NEXT STOP.

C) SUMMARIZE CHADIAN VICE PRESIDENT DJIME'S VISIT TO THE US.

D) URGE THAT THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY A CHADIAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.

E) NOTE THAT WE ARE WILLING, IN PRINCIPLE, TO FACILITATE TRANSFERS OF US ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO CHAD.

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F) (IF ASKED) SAY WE CANNOT GUARANTEE TO REPLACE EQUIPMENT JORDAN MAY PROVIDE TO CHAD, EITHER ON A GRANT OR FMS CREDIT BASIS, BECAUSE WE CANNOT COMMIT THE CONGRESS IN ADVANCE. (FYI: THERE MIGHT BE PROBLEMS WITH CONGRESS IF WE SOUGHT ADDITIONAL GRANT OR FMS CREDIT TO REIMBURSE JORDAN. END FYI).

CHRISTOPHER

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